

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body having a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth, the body defining and arch wire slot extending mesiodistally across the body and dimensioned to receive an arch wire wherein the body includes a recess;

a shutter coupled to the body and moveable relative to the body between an open position, in which placement and removal of an arch wire in the arch wire slot is facilitated, and a closed position, in which placement and removal of an arch wire in the arch wire slot is inhibited; and

a spring positioned in the recess and coupled to the body, the spring providing a force to bias the shutter toward the closed position.
2. (Original) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body includes a tie wing and wherein the recess is formed in the tie wing.
3. (Original) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 2 wherein the tie wing is an occlusal tie wing.
4. (Original) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 2 wherein the body includes a second tie wing having a second recess and a second spring positioned within the recess, wherein the second spring is coupled to the shutter.

5. (Original) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring biases the shutter toward the closed position.

6. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 5 wherein the body includes a notch [recess] adapted to engage and hold the shutter in the open position.

7. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shutter slides within the recess [passageway].

8. (Original) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spring comprises a coil spring.

9. (New Claim) An orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body having a lingual surface for attachment to a tooth, the body defining an arch wire slot extending mesiodistally across the body and dimensioned to receive an arch wire, wherein the body includes a tie wing and a recess formed in the tie wing;

a shutter coupled to the body and moveable relative to the body between an open position, in which placement and removal of an arch wire in the arch wire slot is facilitated, and a closed position, in which placement and removal of an arch wire in the arch wire slot is inhibited; and

a spring positioned in the recess and coupled to the body, the spring providing a force to bias the shutter.

10. (New Claim) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 9 wherein the tie wing is an occlusal tie wing.

11. (New Claim) An orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 9 wherein the body includes a second tie wing having a second recess and a second spring positioned within the recess, wherein the second spring is coupled to the shutter.